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body appears to be present in *H. orientale*, *H. fœtidum* and *Statice Bonduelli*. Passing to the fungi, the organs of fructification of *Peziza aurantia*, with their yellow disk and lighter outer side, were examined. It was found that the orange color is due to a new yellow pigment, that has been named "pezizin," which is present in the form of extremely minute drops combined with an oil-like substance that occurs dissolved in the plasma of the paraphyses. The pigment, which occurs also in *P. convexula*, may be dissolved out by alcohol or ether. Saponin was ascertained to occur in the living roots of *Saponaria officinalis* and *Gypsophila Struthium*, dissolved in the cell juice, from which it can be separated in small amorphous white particles by treatment of thin slices of the root with absolute alcohol or ether. In the dried roots and in quillaia-bark it occurs as an amorphous white or gray substance. By treatment with concentrated sulphuric acid and exposure to air, which gives rise to a yellow, then a bright red and afterwards a beautiful blue-violet color, saponin can be detected in the contents of all the cells of the middle bark of *Quillaia saponaria*.

## Botanical Literature.

*On the Indian Species of Cyperus, with Remarks on some others that specially illustrate sub-divisions of the Genus.** By Charles Baron Clarke, F.L.S., F.R.S. With four plates.

This valuable contribution to Cyperology treats of many of our American species, based on specimens mainly by the older collectors in the Herbaria of Kew and Calcutta. Numbers of them are referred to older names than those found in our manuals, etc., and others regarded as species are reduced to varieties. The changes in nomenclature proposed by Mr. Clarke are as follows:

*C. microdontus*, Torr., and var. *Texensis*, Torr., including *C. Gatesii*, Torr., are refered to *C. polystachyus*, L., a widely distributed species in the warmer regions of the eastern continent, under the varietal name *holosericea*; *C. fugax*, Liebm., of Mexico, becomes var. *paniculata* of the same species, and *C. Nuttalii*, (Eddy) Torr., becomes var. *filicina*, although, as Mr. Clarke remarks, it may best be regarded as a species; the form of the last-named plant described as *C. Cleaveri* by Dr. Torrey is also made a variety of *C. polystachyus*, var. *Cleaveri*; the original specimens from Monmouth Co., N. J., as well as recent ones collected by Mr. C. F. Parker at Cape May, N. J., with various intermediate forms between them and *C. Nuttallii*, indicate, as Dr. Torrey later suggested, that it is merely a depauperate form of this plant, not worthy of varietal rank. In these reductions Mr. Clarke follows the ideas of Bœckeler. *C. divergens*, Chapm., is made *C. leucolepis*, Carey, MS. *C. ambiguus*, Liebm , of Mexico, becomes *C. Olfersianus*, Kunth. *C. diandrus*, Torr., var. *castaneus*, Torr., is restored to specific rank under the name *C. rivularis*, Kunth, a change in which we are not ready to concur. The *C. flavicomus*, Torr., Mex. Bound. Survey, is referred to *C. Hochstetteri*, Nees. *C. inflexus*,

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*Journn. Linn. Soc., xxi., 1–202.

Muhl., is *C. aristatus*, Röttb., a change already noted by Mr. Watson in the Botany of California. *C. rotundus*, L., a species of tropical distribution, includes var. *Hydra,* Gray, Manual. *C. esculentus*, L., is the older name for *C. phymatodes*, Muhl., and *C. Hermanni*, Buckley, (var. *Hermanni*, Watson) is included by Mr. Clarke. *C. Grayii*, Torr., is referred to *C. setifolius*, Torr., we suppose an older manuscript name, having found no such published description of the plant, though it was made a var. *setifolius* of *C. filiculmis.*—N. L. BRITTON.

*Desmids of the United States and List of Pediastrums; with* 1,100 *Illustrations on* 53 *colored Plates.* By Rev. Francis Wolle, 8vo. pp. 168. Bethlehem, Pa. 1884.

Although we have never specially studied the subject of freshwater algæ, we have more than once had occasion to consult the pages of Rabenhorst to ascertain the name of some beautiful desmid which we have observed floating in the field of the microscope, and we know from so slight an experience as this how difficult it is to identify these minute plants without the aid of accurate figures. Those many readers of the BULLETIN who have, during the last few years, turned their attention to the study of these low forms of vegetable life, will heartily thank Mr. Wolle for placing at their disposal a work in which all obstacles of this nature are removed through the eleven hundred colored figures which he has given them, and which illustrate all the species and varieties that are described in the text.

The desmids, the group of fresh water algæ to which this work is specially devoted, embrace a large number of species, some of them of most exquisite forms, and the publication of a work like the one under consideration must certainly have the effect of giving a further impetus to the study of them among those who have a microscope at their command, and who desire to know more about the inhabitants of the unseen world.

As regards paper and letter-press the book is handsomely got up, the illustrations are beautifully drawn and colored, and we scarcely see how the author is able to offer the work to students at so low a price as five dollars.

*Vacation Cruising in the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays.* By J. T. Rothrock, M.D., Professor of Botany in the University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1884.

It is rather late in the season to allude to this charming little book by a botanist whose name is familiar to all our readers, but it is none too late to recommend the perusal of it to those who, before many months elapse, will be laying plans for next year's vacation, and who, like our author, may have the means at their command to spend it upon the water, and in their own craft. But in making these remarks we do not mean that the reading of the book should be restricted to the class that we have just mentioned, for it is very pleasantly written, full of instruction, and will prove equally interesting to all those whose destiny compels them to while away their vacation hours upon dry land.

**Correction**.—On page 64, line 17, read Fig. A is a node, *p* is a petiole scar.